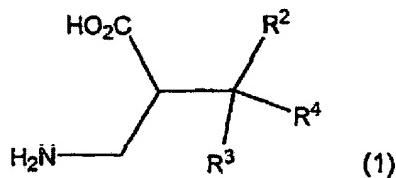


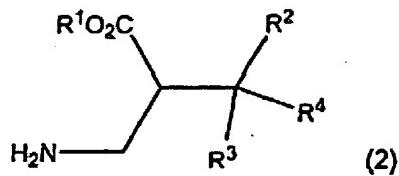
**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) Process for the preparation of an enantiomerically enriched  $\beta^2$ -amino acid of formula 1

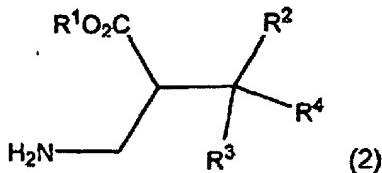


wherein R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> each independently stand for H, an optionally substituted (hetero)aryl, an optionally substituted alkyl, OR<sup>5</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>6</sup>, C(O)R<sup>7</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, OC(O)R<sup>11</sup> wherein R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> each independently stand for H, an optionally substituted alkyl or for an optionally substituted (hetero)aryl and wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> or R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> may form a ring together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, comprising the steps of reacting a stereoselective hydrolytic enzyme with a mixture of enantiomers of a  $\beta^2$ -amino acid ester of formula 2



wherein R<sup>1</sup> stands for an optionally substituted alkyl and wherein R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are as defined above and collecting the resulting enantiomerically enriched  $\beta^2$ -amino acid of formula 1.

2. (original) Process for the preparation of an enantiomerically enriched  $\beta^2$ -amino acid ester of formula 2



wherein R<sup>1</sup> stands for an optionally substituted alkyl and wherein R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> each independently stand for H, an optionally substituted (hetero)aryl, an optionally substituted alkyl, OR<sup>5</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>6</sup>, C(O)R<sup>7</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, OC(O)R<sup>11</sup> wherein R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> each independently stand for H, an optionally substituted alkyl or for an optionally substituted (hetero) aryl and

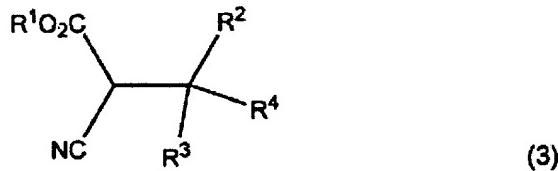
wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> or R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> may form a ring together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, comprising the steps of reacting a stereoselective hydrolytic enzyme with a mixture of enantiomers of a β<sup>2</sup>-amino acid ester of formula 2, wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are as defined above and collecting the remaining enantiomerically enriched β<sup>2</sup>-amino acid ester of formula 2.

3. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the stereoselective hydrolytic enzyme is an enzyme from the enzyme classification group EC 3.1.1, 3.4.21, 3.4.22 or 3.4.23.

4. (currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, wherein the stereoselective hydrolytic enzyme has an E-ratio > 5.

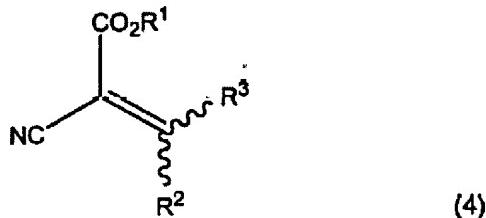
5. (currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of claims 2-4~~ claim 2, wherein the collected remaining enantiomerically enriched β<sup>2</sup>-amino acid ester is further hydrolysed in a manner known per se.

6. (currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of claims 1-5~~ claim 1, wherein the β<sup>2</sup>-amino acid ester of formula 2 is prepared by reduction of the corresponding nitrile of formula 3



wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are as defined above with a suitable reducing agent and optionally in the presence of a suitable catalyst.

7. (original) Process according to claim 6, wherein the nitrile of formula 3, wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are as defined above and wherein R<sup>4</sup> stands for H is prepared by reduction of the corresponding nitrile of formula 4,

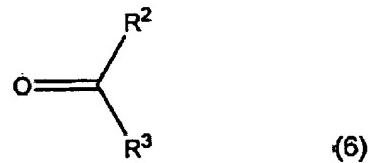


wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are as defined above with a suitable reducing agent and optionally in the presence of a suitable catalyst.

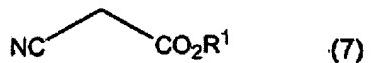
8. (currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of claims 1-5~~ claim 1, wherein the β<sup>2</sup>-amino acid ester of formula 2, wherein R<sup>4</sup> stands for H and R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are as defined above is prepared by reduction of the corresponding nitrile of formula 4, wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are as defined above with a suitable reducing agent and optionally in the presence of a suitable catalyst.

9. (original) Process according to claim 6, wherein the nitrile of formula 3, wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are as defined in claim 6 is prepared from the corresponding nitrile of formula 4, wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are as defined above by introduction of R<sup>4</sup> via nucleophilic 1,4-addition using a suitable nucleophile.

10. (currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of claims 7-9~~ claim 7, wherein the nitrile of formula 4, wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are as defined above is prepared by condensation of a ketone or aldehyde of formula 6

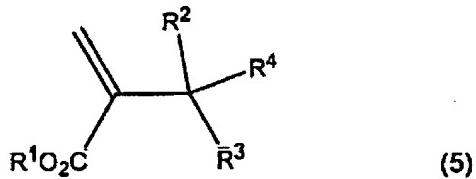


wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are as defined above and a nitrile of formula 7



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is as defined above, in the presence of a suitable base or a dehydrating reagent.

11. (currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of claims 1-5~~ claim 1, wherein the β<sup>2</sup>-amino acid ester of formula 2, wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are as defined in ~~any one of claims 1-5~~ claim 1 is prepared by reacting NH<sub>3</sub> or an NH<sub>3</sub>-analogue with the 2-substituted acrylic acid ester of formula 5



wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are as defined above.

12. (currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of claims 1-11~~ claim 1, wherein the enantiomerically enriched β<sup>2</sup>-amino acid (ester) prepared according to a process of ~~any one of claims 1-11~~ claim 1 is further converted into a pharmaceutically active ingredient.

13. (original) Process according to claim 12, wherein the pharmaceutical active ingredient is formulated into a pharmaceutical composition comprising the pharmaceutical active ingredient and an excipient.